

EXHIBIT G
STATEMENT OF CASSANDRA P.

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Cassandra P. is a pseudonym for an African American woman farmer who resides in Northport, Alabama and farms 50 acres of pasture and vegetables in Pickens County, Alabama. I am concerned about reprisals from the local FSA office and white farmers who assist me with my farming operation, if my actual name is used.

I am connected to the Rural Coalition and their chairperson John Zippert who may represent me in this case. I have received assistance from the outreach and technical assistance programs run by their member groups for over twenty years.

I am primarily a cattle farmer with over 25 head of brood cows.

I have had three loans with the USDA Farm Services Agency. I received my first loan for \$25,000 in 2008 and used the funds to purchase a farm truck, pea sheller and other equipment. I was able to repay this loan from the results of my farming operation.

In 2011, I borrowed an additional \$25,000 for an FSA Microloan Program for farm equipment although I wanted more funds, the local FSA agent limited me to this amount. In 2013, I received another FSA Microloan for \$25,000 to purchase additional cows. The FSA took a mortgage on two rental houses, with a value of \$40 to \$50,000 on property in Birmingham, I inherited from my mother

I am a school teacher and decided to continue farming my family land utilizing old equipment that my father passed down to me. The equipment is 40 to 50 years old and breaks down often during farming season. One tractor no long goes into reverse which makes it difficult to use for some farming tasks such as moving around hay bales to feed the cows.

I have had as many as 25 brood cows on the land. I now have 18 brood cows.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, I had encountered some problems with my farm operation. I need to improve the grazing with fertilization and some cross fencing. I also have had problems with calving which reduced my revenue stream. In 2018, Hurricane Michael damaged my farm and caused trees to fall killing three breeding animals. A timber harvesting contractor on a neighboring landowner's farm damaged my fence and allowed part of my herd to wander away. I recovered some but not all of the cows that I had.

The timber contractor came back and fixed the fence after I called him numerous times. Overall, I lost five head from the fence problem but I am still planning to sue the timber contractor in small claims court.

These difficulties meant that I fell behind in paying my full payments to FSA on the two outstanding loans. Mr. Phillips in the Tuscaloosa FSA Office told me that I would not be able to get any more farm loans because of my bad payment history. I called a Mr. Coles in the FSA State Office in Montgomery to complain of discrimination and discouragement by the local agent. The situation improved a little after I spoke up, but I still need more help to get my farm to where I want it to be.

During the past 18 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, I continued to experience difficulties in marketing my livestock and vegetables due to low prices and market disruptions. Several members of my immediate family, including a sister and several cousins were directly impacted by the disease. One cousin died of COVID-19 and related health problems.

I was happy to learn of the relief from the Section 1005 ARPA funding to forgive my outstanding loans after years of less than satisfactory loan servicing by FSA. I received my offer letter last week, indicating a balance of \$15,000 on the 2011 loan and \$16,000 on the 2013 loan.

My plan after the loans were paid, was to make a new loan. I was hoping to use these new funds to lime, fertilize and level my pasture land to make it more productive. I also hope to purchase new farm equipment, including a rolled hay bailer and tractor, which would help to upgrade and modernize my operation and make it more productive.

When I learned of the TRO and pending injunction, from my farm organization, I said that once again I would have to put my dreams on hold and try to make do with the brood stock and farm equipment I have until better days.

When the loans are paid, I hope FSA will release my two rental houses in Birmingham, which they took as collateral for the Microloans. This action by FSA, was questionable under the regulations, since they said for a Microloan, you only had to pledge what you bought as collateral. This shows the disparate treatment in lending and over-collateralization faced by most small Black farmers.

Once the rental houses are released from the mortgage, I plan to borrow funds, from a commercial lender, to repair and renovate them so that they can bring in additional revenue to further supplement my teaching

and farming income. I am unable to borrow against these assets now as they are part of the collateral on my FSA Microloans.

In further reflection on the delay in implementation of Section 1005, I say if this loan forgiveness does not come through, I might have to stop farming altogether and turn my land over to some white farmers."

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing statement is true and correct.

Signed this ____21st____ day of June 2021.

By: /s/ Casandra P.

Note: John Zippert of the ASAC/Federation staff assisted in preparing this farmer declaration. Zippert also serves as Chair of the Rural Coalition Board of Directors.